

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for at least partially separating nucleic acid molecules in a sample into populations wherein a population is tagged or capable of being tagged with a moiety capable of being immobilized on a matrix, said method comprising contacting the nucleic acid containing sample with a matrix whereby the tagged molecules are captured by the matrix and thereby separated from untagged molecules. The method may be used in a variety of applications, including separating restriction enzyme digestion products, separating linear from circular nucleic acid molecules, *in vitro* packaging of bacteriophage particles, diagnostic PCR.

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